Representation of Tamils in Ceasefire Monitoring Committee

1871. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether fears of a possible backlash by the majority Singhalese community are becoming more pronounced in the wake of continued violence in the eastern parts of Sri Lanka ;

(b) whether Government have cautioned the Sri Lanka Government on this sensitive issue since the landmine explosions and attacks on Tamil civilians have left the ceasefire virtually in tatters within a month of the Eelam National Liberation Front agreeing to the extension of cessation of hostilities; and

(c) if so, what has been the reaction of that Government in this regard and steps being taken to ensure more representation being given to the Tamils on the cease-fiire monitoring committee and making it more effective so as to enable it to provide much needed healing touch ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) The situation in Sri Lanka is highly charged and fraught with explosive possiblities. As a result of the violation of the cease fire arrangements, incidents of violence and counterviolence between the two sides have increased recently. Civilians, particularly Tamil civilians have been the main victims of this violence. Some Sinhalese civilians have also been killed in these incidents and this could result in a hardening of communal attitudes. Since communal violence has taken place in 1977, 1981 and 1983, its recurrence can not be ruled out.

(b) It is because of this inherent danger that Government have continuously urged all sides concerned to work towards a political solution which alone can bring an end to the crisis. Government have repeatedly conveyed to the Sri Lanka Government the need to ensure restraint on the part of the security forces.

(c) The Ceasefire Monitoring Committee was established by the Government of Sri Lanka following discussions held by us with both sides. We are constantly in touch with the Government of Sri Lanka to explore ways of enhancing the effectiveness of the Monitoring Committee.

Venue for non-aligned summit in 1986

1872. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the venue for holding the non-aligned summit in 1986 has been fixed; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Conference of Ministers of Non-aligned Countries held in Luanda, Angola, in September this year decided, by consensus, that the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Nonaligned Countries will be held in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1986.

Chairmanship of NAM

1873. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the issue of NAM's chairmanship has been decided; and